

REMARKS

The Applicant appreciates the examiner's consideration of the Application and requests reconsideration and allowance based on the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

The examiner objected to the drawings stating that the "mounting sleeve" of claims 12-14 was not shown. The applicant believes that in fact the "mounting sleeve" is shown and described. See Figure 7B and the text in the top 3 lines of page 10, which together describe mounting sleeves 116 and 120 that are coupled to the cables and compressed with clamps 106 and 108. The applicant believes that this feature of these claims is sufficiently described.

The examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-10 and 15-20 as anticipated by Morris. Morris clearly does not anticipate the claims as amended. Morris discloses electrically interconnecting electrically conductive strips 20 on support layer 18 to conductors 14 on substraight 12. Neither of these electrical devices is a cable. The cables are positively claimed in each of the claims. Accordingly, the reference cannot be anticipating.

The examiner rejected claims 1-5, 9 and 11 as obvious over Tighe in combination with Morris. Tighe discloses a cryogenic connector system for connecting contacts on 2 printed circuit boards. As with Morris, neither reference described interconnecting cables, or connecting a cable to a second electrical device. Accordingly, the references cannot anticipate any of the claims.

As to obviousness, the applicant submits that it would be improper under the law of obviousness to provide a layer of anisotropic conductive elastomer as taught by Morris in the Tighe connector as set forth by the examiner at the bottom of page 4. The primary reason is that Tighe clearly requires that the electrical connection be accomplished directly between the connectors of the printed circuit boards. As described in column 6, lines 21-29, the Tighe

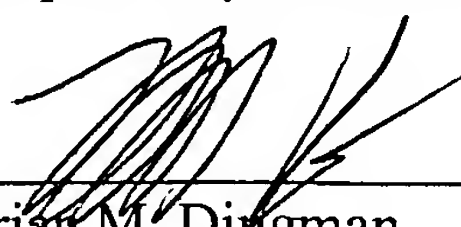
connector works by direct contact of the conductive spring fingers at the tip end of conductors 5 with conductors 6 on circuit board 8. The connector is described as compressing the spring fingers which "retain their resiliency and exert a positive reactionary force ensuring good conduct pressure."

As described in the present application, for example on page 4, lines 9-10, the ACE layer of the claims is both flexible and anisotropically conductive. As described at the top of page 4, ACE is a composite conductive metal elements in an elastomeric matrix. If a layer of such material were placed in the Tighe connector, the material would interrupt the contact pressure that is required in the Tighe connector as described above. Clearly, the flexibility of the elastomer would interrupt the contact pressure and prevent the direct contact required in Tighe. As a layer of ACE would interfere with the required functionality of Tighe, as a matter of law Tighe clearly teaches away from the invention, which requires a layer of ACE.

Finally, Morris itself cannot be used to reject the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103, as Morris nowhere describes a connector that includes a cable, which is an element of all of the claims. Beyond that, there is clearly no suggestion in Morris to employ the type of connector disclosed in Morris in a connector that interconnects 1 or 2 multi-conductor cables. As such, Morris cannot be used to reject the claims.

If for any reason this Response is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned in Westborough, Massachusetts, (508) 898-1501.

Respectfully submitted,



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